



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

CAROLANN PACER-RAMSEY
PRESIDENT

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

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TO: Members of the Mental Health Planning Council

FROM: Carolann Pacer-Ramsey, President

DATE: August 30, 2001

Summary of the Mental Health Planning Council Meeting - July 18, 2001

Members Present:

Pacer-Ramsey, Carolann	DelaMer, Lynn	Reinhard, James
Agler, John	Hancock, Catherine	Rinker, Natalie
Avery, Van	Johnston, Mary Kaye	Rose, Sherry
Ball, Beverly	Kelly, Joe	Walker-Bolton, Irene
Bridge, Raymond	Kube, Joyce	Yolton, Bill
Chenault, H. Lynn	Martinez, James Jr.	
Currin, Rebecca	Power, Cynthia	

DMHMRSAS Staff:

Cooper, Pam Fitzgerald
Deal, Sterling
Ferriss, Will
Martinez, Jim
Street, Lisa

Meeting called to order at 10:40 PM on July 18, 2001 by Carolann Pacer-Ramsey, Council President.

Announcements

Krissie Casey and Samuel Hodnett have resigned their memberships on the Council.

Kia Bentley, former Council Chair, has been promoted to full professor in the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work.

The Department's Office of Consumer Affairs has completed a series of seminars on consumer participation in service plan development.

Sufficient comments were received on the Department's proposed Human Rights Regulations to require an extension of the period for public comment. The earliest possible date for enacting the regulations is now November 22nd.

Carolann reported that the family of a consumer in a residential facility had written the Council with complaints regarding the quality of care. Carolann responded to the family that it was appropriate to notify the Council, and that, after researching the issue, she had determined that mechanisms in the Department and the Department for the Rights of Virginians with Disabilities were addressing their concerns. Carolann feels that the letter indicates a greater public awareness of the Council.

Joyce Law's new position at Norfolk CSB requires that the status of her Council membership be changes to that of provider.

Carolann mentioned the need for a clear policy regarding the use of Council funds, particularly how the funds might be used to advance funds to members to facilitate their participation on the Council.

The Consumer Empowerment and Leadership Training (CELT) kick-off meeting in June was well attended and a cadre of consumer change agents have been hired. Leadership Academy training for the project will be held in Jamestown on September 11-14.

Brian Parrish announced that the VOCAL workshop on consumer-run programs is to be held on July 26th and that additional workshops are under consideration.

Van Avery reported that the Mental Health Association is participating in a regional planning initiative in the Danville area.

Disposition of Previous Minutes:

Minutes of the May 16th meeting were adopted by unanimous vote.

New Business

There was a discussion of a proposal by the Daily Planet to the Richmond Planning Commission to establish a safe house for homeless individuals with mental health issues. Carolann will monitor the process with particular concern for any NIMBY resistance to the project and notify members by email on project status. Bev. Ball suggested the Council should express support for the project. Cynthia Power suggested that the Council could write a letter to the Planning Commission, the Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia Municipal League expressing support and citing evidence to dispel stigma

regarding the prevalence of violence among individuals with mental illness. Lynn Chenault and Bill Yolton volunteered to work with Bev and Cynthia to develop such a position statement. A motion was made, and unanimously passed, to develop the position statement.

Dr. Kirsten Rowe from the Department of Rehabilitative Services made a presentation on the Systems Change Grant Proposal her Department is submitting to the federal Department of Education to enhance employment outcomes for the mentally ill. The Council voted unanimously to provide a letter of support for the proposal and to participate on the consumer advisory board for the project. Announcement of awards is expected in late September.

The annual MHPC Fall Retreat will be held on October 19th and 20th at the Norfolk Radisson.

A motion was passed unanimously to grant membership, pending Departmental approval, to the Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs and the Director of Children's and Adolescent Services.

Carolann reported a request for the Council provide funds to support a speaker at an upcoming conference for deaf consumers. The request was tabled pending the development of a Council policy on the use of Council funds.

The Council broke into two groups to discuss the Adult and Children's Sections of the FFY 2202-2004 Mental Health Plan.

Adjournment

Mental Health Planning Council President Carolann Pacer-Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Next Meeting Date:

September 19, 2001

Department of Rehabilitative Services